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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Tatsuhiko KODAMA, et al.

SERIAL NO.: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION

FILED: HERewith

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/JP05/03029

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: February 24, 2005

FOR: METHOD OF ASSESSING THE GRADE OF VASCULAR INJURY

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119**  
**AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application for patent, notice is hereby given that the applicant claims as priority:

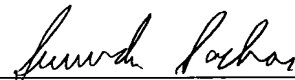
**COUNTRY**  
Japan

**APPLICATION NO**  
2004-049444

**DAY/MONTH/YEAR**  
25 February 2004

Certified copies of the corresponding Convention application(s) were submitted to the International Bureau in PCT Application No. PCT/JP05/03029. Receipt of the certified copy(s) by the International Bureau in a timely manner under PCT Rule 17.1(a) has been acknowledged as evidenced by the attached PCT/IB/304.

Respectfully submitted,  
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